# United States Patent [19]

**Suprowich**

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[45] **Jan. 22, 1974**


[54] **IGNITION KEY STORAGE DEVICE**


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[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **70/63,** 70/58, 70/456 R, 70/DIG. 63

[51] **Int. Cl.** ..... **E05b 65/52,** E05b 73/00

[58] **Field of Search** .. 70/63, 14, DIG. 63, 425, 426, 70/456 R, 57, 58, 237, 61; 206/37 K, 38 K



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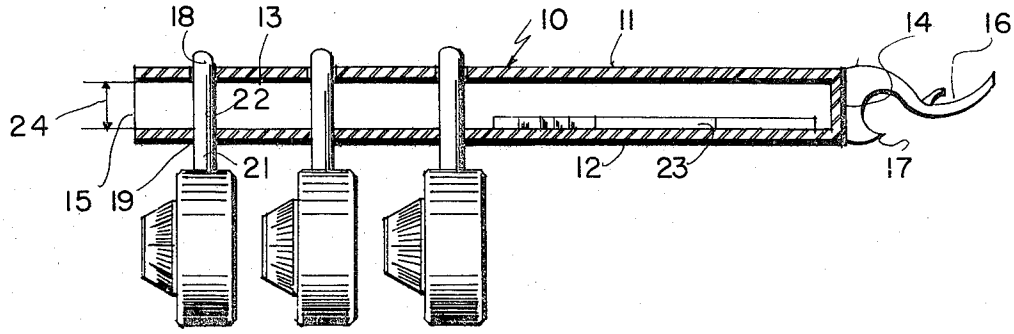
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A container receives the key and a plurality of combination locks close off the container and prevents the key from being removed until all of the locks are unlocked and removed. Due to the concentration and manipulation required, this prevents an intoxicated driver from obtaining access to the ignition key of his vehicle.


**2 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures**



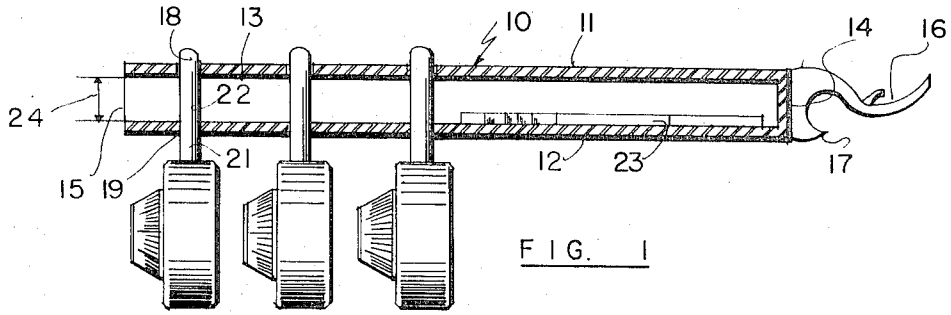



FIG. 1

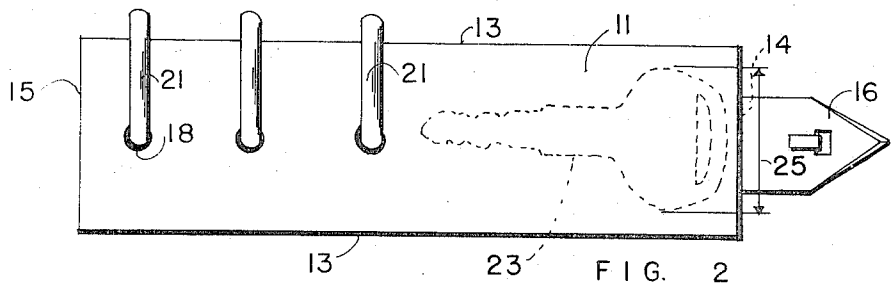



FIG. 2

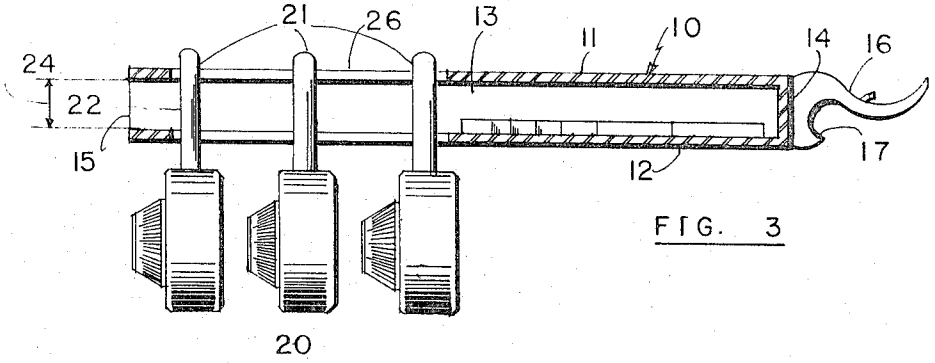



FIG. 3

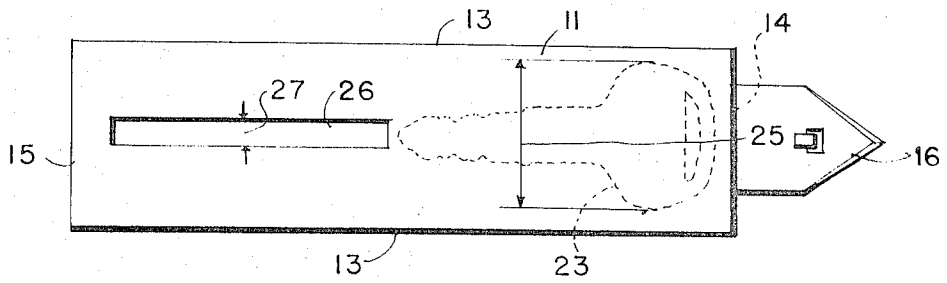



FIG. 4

# IGNITION KEY STORAGE DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in devices which are adapted to prevent an intoxicated person from driving his car or similar vehicle.

Attempts have been made to solve this problem by incorporating an ignition lock in the car which requires certain combinations to be set before the key can be inserted and turned but unfortunately such devices although they may be effective, are extremely expensive to manufacture and install.

The present invention overcomes these disadvantages yet at the same time provides a device which requires a given amount of concentration and manipulation before access to the ignition key is obtained. This effectively prevents a driver from obtaining access to the ignition key if his faculties are impared by alcohol or drugs to the extent whereby he is unable to concentrate and manipulate to a predetermined degree.

Another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described which acts as an ignition key container which is easily carried by the driver and which furthermore may have additional uses incorporated thereon such as a can opener or bottle opener.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described in which the concentration and manipulation required can be varied by the number of combination locks utilized.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described which is simple in construction, economical in manufacture and otherwise well suited to the purpose for which it is designed.

With the foregoing objects in view and other such objects and advantages as will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention relates as this specification proceeds, my invention consists essentially in the arrangement and construction of parts all as hereinafter more particularly described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side sectional elevation of one embodiment of the device.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a side sectional elevation of an alternative embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a top plan view of FIG. 3.

In the drawings like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Proceeding therefore to describe the invention in detail, reference character **10** illustrates a small elongated box having an upper panel **11** and a spaced and parallel lower panel **12** maintained in this spaced apart relationship by means of a pair of side panels **13**. One end **14** is closed and the other end **15** is open.

A can piercer **16** may extend from the closed end **14** together with a conventional crown cap opener **17**.

Dealing first with the embodiment shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, a plurality of openings or drillings **18** are formed centrally through the upper panel **11** and similarly through the lower panel **12**, the lower panel apertures being identified by reference character **19**.



A plurality of combination locks **20** which are provided with U-shaped hasps **21**, are engageable by one leg of the hasps **21**, through the upper and lower apertures or drillings **18** and **19** and, when closed, are situated as shown in FIG. **1**. The hasp legs **22** which pass through the interior of the box **10** prevent the ignition key **23**, which is placed in the box first, from being removed until the combination locks themselves are removed.

In this connection it is essential that the distance **24** between the upper and lower panels **11** and **12** is less than the maximum width **25** of the ignition key so that this key cannot be turned sideways and moved past the hasp legs **22** between these hasp legs and the sides **13**.

The combination locks **20** may be relatively small and light weight and if each one is provided with a different combination, it needs considerable concentration to remember the combination, to operate the combination lock and then remove from the box so that access to the key may be maintained.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. **3**, the apertures take the form of elongated slots **26** formed in the upper and lower panels **11** and **12** one above the other and situated towards the open end **15** as are the apertures **18** and **19** in the previous embodiment.

Hereagain the combination locks engage through the slots and as many combination locks as desired may be utilized thus controlling the degree of difficulty which will be experienced by the operator in obtaining access to the key **23**.

In this embodiment, not only should the distance **24** be left and the maximum width **25** of the key but also the width **27** of the slot should be such that the key cannot be turned and removed through the slot rather than through the open end **15**.

Since various modifications can be made in my invention as hereinabove described, and many apparently widely different embodiments of same made within the spirit and scope of the claims without departing from such spirit and scope, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense.

What I claim as my invention is:

**1.** A container to receive an ignition key comprising a box having one end opened, said box including an upper panel and a lower panel and a pair of side panels, at least one aperture through said upper and lower panels situated towards the open end of said box and at least one combination lock, said lock having a U-shaped hasp which engages through said apertures thus preventing the ignition key from being removed until the lock hasp is removed, the distance between the upper and lower panels of said box being less than the maximum width of said key whereby said key cannot be turned so that it may pass by said hasps.

**2.** The container according to claim **1** in which said aperture takes the form of an elongated slot, the width of said slot being less than the major width of said key whereby said key cannot be turned and passed through said slot.

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